

among whom he seeks proselytes. In a religious periodical he came out with a lengthy article against his own countrymen, and his literary effort finally found its way to the columns of one of the most influential Swedish newspapers. The reverend gentleman says that since 1850 about 20,000 Swedes have come to Utah as Mormons. And then he goes on to describe the heartrending poverty and degradation under which they are suffering here. They have no money; they are compelled to trade at the store of the Bishop; they are defrauded in every way possible, and the women in particular are the victims of "this religion." The reverend writer of that article suggests that the Swedish ladies rise and declare "a holy war of revenge against a sect that has brought unspeakable misery upon their own sisters."

This is sufficient to show the tenor of the conspiracy against Utah. We do not stop to refute the falsehoods put forth under the guise of religion, but may perhaps be allowed to point out that the systematic propagation of such falsehoods is detrimental to the material interests of this State, even more so than to the religion which is the apparent object of attack. The latter exists and is triumphant because it is founded on the eternal rock against which the furious waves of hatred and error have raged in vain all these centuries.

We can understand the disappointment, the chagrin, of some Christian ministers. They come to Utah under the false impression that they will find an ignorant, superstitious people led by a tyrannical Priesthood. They picture to themselves the honor and glory to be theirs, when by their learning and careful training they shall be able to add converts to their churches, rescued from the ranks of the misguided people, supposedly only waiting for their arrival to embrace the salvation of which they are the evangelists. Then, they come and find that the Mormons are intelligent, generally contented and happy and above all enjoying that perfect liberty secured by human and divine laws. They find that the man-made doctrines have no power but become dark, compared to the Gospel of Jesus, as the flame of a tallow-dip by the side of an electric lamp. They realize they can do almost nothing. They hate to acknowledge their mistake. Only truly noble and honest characters are willing to do that without compulsion. Hence their frantic efforts to explain to the world the cause of their failure as missionaries, even at the most cruel sacrifice of truth.

We are happy to say that not all Christian ministers in Utah are of the miserable class here noticed. There are some who are pursuing their labors in a humble way, doing all the good they can without endeavoring to injure their fellow men. Were there more of this latter class, there is no reason why peace should not reign here perpetually, for one Mormon doctrine is to accord to all the liberty of conscience they ask for themselves.

SPAIN IS FRACTIOUS.

It is foretold that this will be the last day of the peace commission, because the Spaniards will order a halt by withdrawal. Although this seems a probability, it is not generally credited. Spain is now completely isolated, and such policy would mean that the United States would have its way without its opponent having any voice whatever in the settlement, and if this were resisted that Spain would have to be finished. Spanish statesmen, especially those who are engaged on the commission, are by no means dullards or even far from it at

all out of the front ranks in the matter of modern diplomacy; and such action as that above indicated would show that they are unable to keep their judgment above their hereditary but nevertheless foolish pride and shortsightedness. It would be a plain case of bidding for a grievance, and by such means accomplishing among the powers what they were unable to obtain by their vaunted prowess on land and sea—sympathy and support.

There was a faint ray of hope shot athwart the beclouded pathway of Spain at the announcement that the German emperor would pay an official visit to Christiana's realm. It was a case of a drowning man catching at a straw. It is now given out from German royal headquarters that such visit, if made, will have no official or sympathetic significance whatever. And what Germany will not do, no power of Europe or elsewhere will undertake to do, so far as relates to giving aid and comfort to Spain. She would show her wisdom wiser by getting the best terms possible from the conqueror, abiding by them, and then proceeding with what she has left to build up, restore and progress in accordance with modern ideas and advanced principles.

STUDYING FRENCH.

Salt Lake is not the only American city at present struck with a French wave. A Chicago cotemporary tells us that French clubs now are being formed there under the direction of the French consul, and that some of the students have already written stories and dramas in the language of beautiful France. In proof of this humorous assertion, it quotes from *En Ville*, a novellette by M. Gustav Flaubert Simpkins. The quotation, as will be seen, is a spirited conversation between the hero, Guy de Puy, and the heroine, Mile Truffles:

"J'ai," remarked Mile Truffles, impatiently.

"As-tu?" was the quick rejoinder.

"Il a."

"A-t-il?"

"Oui."

"Nous avons, vous aviez, ils ont, elles ont," and her cupid's bow lips curled in fine scorn. Guy de Puy reeled as if he had been shot. Clutching his hat he strode to the door, said bon soir and walked out into the night.

We call the attention of Professor Muzzarelli's students to the achievements of their fellow students in Chicago. They should try to keep up with them.

RICHARD BALLANTYNE.

In the death of Richard Ballantyne the city of Ogden lost a respected, progressive and an enterprising citizen, while the State of Utah has lost one of its pure-minded, patriotic people. As a worker in the Sunday school system he was indefatigable and untiring and as a member of the Church he was in all respects equal to his calling. In all the walks of life he was upright and just, and no inducement could cause the veteran to swerve from what he considered the path of propriety and honor. During a life of eighty-one long years he never was known to be untrue to friend or foe—never to be forgetful of the one or resentfully mindful of the other. Although possessed of reasonable means and living in comparatively comfortable circumstances, his faculty of money-getting was not great, and by reason of having to be industrious, careful and strict, some people made the mistake of supposing him to be parsimonious; but this belief was not shared in by those who knew him and his circumstances best.

In 1878 Mr. Ballantyne purchased the Ogden Junction newspaper and conducted it for about a year as a daily and semi-weekly publication. This was during the Russo-Turkish war, and his sympathies went out strongly to the Moslems, not because of regarding them as free from reproach altogether, but because of Russia being the aggressor and Turkey, as he looked at it, being more sinned against than sinning; besides, she was the weaker power and he instinctively felt compassion for the "under dog in the fight." This and many other humane characteristics were distinguishing traits with him. He has served out a good, long term and gone to the reward he has fully earned.

A CORRECT LIFE.

Nothing lends more attractiveness to life or is more to be admired than matrimonial felicity, just as the reverse condition is one of the most terrible things with which humanity has to contend. Such families as that of the late William E. Gladstone, for example, are pleasurable not only to their members but to all who know them. Age, in but to all who know them. Age, in such cases, cannot dim the lustre of virtuous achievement nor failing faculties obscure the honorable purpose of a lifetime. Surrounded by children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, each a picture of contentment in the present and of hope for the future, respected by all who know them afar as well as near, they are at once an honor to themselves, an ornament to society and a pillar of the state. Domestic infelicity, finding its climax in the divorce court, was never so common as now and this has but the tendency to cause the other condition of things—which should be so ordinary and commonplace as not to excite attention or cause special comment—to assume an appearance of peculiarity.

Society, and through it the commonwealth, can have no stable, enduring foundation in the absence of honorable marriage and virtuous life thereafter. To secure this, grave consideration should be given the contract before it is entered into. Too many marriages occur in which infatuation is the controlling factor, and judgment, if any exists, is not used at all. Attractiveness that is caused solely by a pleasing appearance and an acceptable manner is apt to disappear in the midst of the hardships, trials, temptations and other realities of life; and when responsibilities have been acquired which create others, when even if again free-handed the parties are apt to be soured and disgusted with life in general and their own in particular, they break apart and cause others to indulge in misgiving, incredulity and dislike regarding what should be looked upon as the most favored and only correct condition in life.

The French nation is stagnant in the matter of population, even if it be not actually falling off. This is giving political economists and broad-minded statesmen there a great deal of concern, as well it may. Various suggestions for the encouragement of propagation have been offered, but it can hardly be expected that any inducements to contract marriage and have children other than rectitude of purpose and the desire to live honorably in accordance with the laws of God and nature will result in complete satisfaction. The tie that binds to be enduring and beneficial must be gossamer-like in its weight upon the persons of those united, yet in their hearts and souls it must have strength and endurance like unto one of the mighty cables of the Brooklyn bridge.

There are striking and conspicuous instances of perfect harmony and fel-